

IN THE SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION (filed January 8, 2003)

On Page No. 4, please amend Line Nos. 9 – 13, to read, as follows:

“It is therefore important and necessary that a columnar covering device for a columnar jack be developed that has universal application with varying columnar construction sizes, shapes, and lengths, requires few working parts, reduces the likelihood of material waste, accommodates immediate access for jack and material adjustments, due to such causes as shrinkage and swelling, and is easy to use and manufacture. It is thus an object of the present invention to provide a structural column assembly for providing aesthetically adjustable columnar support to a building structure. It is a further object of the present invention to provide a structural column assembly kit for aesthetically and adjustably outfitting a columnar support of a building structure.”

On Page No. 12, please amend Line No. 1, to read as follows:

“supporting device 12, such as a columnar jack, that can be used to otherwise secure ~~securing~~ a columnar support”

On Page No. 13, please amend Line Nos. 1 – 12, to read, as follows:

“soft plastics), rubberized compounds, vinyl, cloth materials, and elastic materials.

Excellent results are attainable where a soft easily foldable cloth material is used of any

suitable type. In addition, the material could be manufactured to look like (or have a similar visual appearance as) the material of the columnar support 14 that it will attach to for blending into the structure. In this last regard, it is contemplated that the material used in the construction of strap 18, in order to more properly blend into the structure, be in aesthetic agreement with the columnar support or structure. As the strap 18 performs a concealing function by preferably folding radially outwards and over itself (Arrows A-A in FIG. 9 and Arrows B-B in FIG. 11) for reasons heretofore discussed, the material used must allow the strap 18 to “reverse bend”, or bend over upon itself. In this way, the strap can shield the second adjustable band member 20 underneath and protect people from injuring themselves on it. The strap 18 can also provide a moisture absorption barrier, if constructed from such a material, that can prevent moisture from traveling down the columnar support 14 and contacting the entire columnar support and the underlying floor surfaces.”

On Page No. 14, please amend Line Nos. 8 – 11, to read, as follows:

“manufactured to look like (or have a similar visual appearance as) the material of the columnar support 14 that it will attach to so as to blend into the structure and provide a uniform appearance. In this last regard, it is contemplated that the material used in the construction of skirt 22, in order to more properly blend into the structure, be in aesthetic agreement with the columnar support or building structure. Adjustment and securement of the skirt 22 can include skirt adjustment means 26, such as overlap upon itself, Velcro or adhesive attachment, or mechanical mechanism.”

On Page No. 15, please amend Line Nos. 10 – 11, to read, as follows:

“columnar support 14 can have a hole 35 drilled into an end 36, be it a bottom end as referenced at 53 [[38]] (FIGS. 8 and 9), a top end as referenced at 53 [[40]] (FIGS. 10 and 11), a side, or at any angle or orientation that”

On Page No. 16, please amend Line Nos. 19 – 23, to read, as follows:

“supports have different length measurements. The simplicity of the device should also result in lower manufacture costs.

It is thus contemplated that the present invention discloses a structural column assembly or a structural column assembly kit for aesthetically and adjustably outfitting a columnar support of a building structure. In either case, it is a primary objective of the present invention to provide an aesthetically adjustable columnar support to a building structure, which building structure is generally referenced at 16 in Figure No. 1. It will be seen from an inspection of Figure No. 1 that building structure inherently comprises a structure-jack interface (as referenced at 50) and a structure-column interface (as referenced at 51). Structure-jack interface 50 is further referenced in Figure Nos. 4, and 8 – 11.

It is thus contemplated that the structural column assembly preferably comprises columnar support 14, strap member 18, columnar jack 12, skirt member 22, and columnar clamp 20. It will be understood that columnar support 14 inherently comprises an outer columnar surface 52 as referenced in Figure Nos. 1, 4, and 8 – 11; a column-jack end 53

as referenced in Figure Nos. 4, and 8 – 11; a column-structure end 54 as referenced in Figure No. 1; and a columnar length. It will be further understood from an inspection of Figure No. 1 that the columnar length inherently extends intermediate column-jack end 53 and column-structure end 54. Notably, column-jack end 53 inherently has a column periphery magnitude or distance around the periphery thereof.

Strap member 18, as previously specified, is preferably constructed from a foldable material and inherently comprises an inner strap surface 55 as referenced in Figure Nos. 1, 2, 9, and 11; an outer strap surface 56 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2, 8, and 10; a first strap end 57 as referenced in Figure No. 2; a second strap end 58 as referenced in Figure No. 2; a strap length, a strap height, a fold edge 59 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2, and 8 – 11; a stationary edge 60 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2 and 8; a fold region as referenced at 61 in Figure Nos. 9 and 11; and strap length adjustment means. It will be understood that the strap length inherently extends intermediate first strap end 57 and second strap end 58. Further, it will be readily understood that fold region 61 is essentially that region that is substantially equidistant from fold edge 59 and stationary edge 60. Further, the strap height inherently extends intermediate fold edge 59 and stationary edge 60.

Columnar jack 12 inherently comprises a structure-engaging portion 62 as referenced in Figure No. 6; a column-engaging portion 63 as referenced in Figure No. 5; and jack adjustment means (as defined, for example, by incremental adjustable support mechanism 32). Skirt member 22 is preferably constructed from a stiff material as earlier specified. Skirt member 22 inherently comprises an inner skirt surface 64 as referenced in Figure No. 2, and 8 – 11; an outer skirt surface 65 as referenced in Figure Nos. 1, 2,

and 8 – 11; a first skirt end 66 as referenced in Figure No. 2; a second skirt end 67 as referenced in Figure No. 2; a skirt length; a skirt height; a strap-engaging edge 68 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2, 8, and 10; a structure-engaging edge 69 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2, and 8 – 11; and skirt length adjustment means. It will be understood that the skirt length inherently extends intermediate first skirt end 66 and second skirt end 67 and that the skirt height inherently extends intermediate strap-engaging edge 68 and structure-engaging edge 69.

Columnar clamp 20 inherently comprises an inner clamp surface 70 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2 and 3; an outer clamp surface 71 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2, 3, 8, and 10; a first clamp end 72 as referenced in Figure No. 3; a second clamp end 73 as referenced in Figure No. 3; a clamp length; a clamp height; a fold-side edge 74 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2, 8, and 10; an open clamp edge 75 as referenced in Figure Nos. 2, 8, and 10; and clamp length adjustment means 28 as earlier described. It will be readily understood that the clamp length inherently extends intermediate first clamp end 72 and second clamp end 73 and that the clamp height inherently extends intermediate fold-side edge 74 and open clamp edge 75.

It will be further understood from an inspection of the noted figures that structure-engaging portion 62 engages structure-jack interface 50 and that column-engaging portion 63 engages column-jack end 53. Further, column-structure end 54 engages structure-column interface 51. The jack adjustment means thus enables a user to vertically adjust columnar support 14. In this last regard, it will be understood that columnar jack 12 thus inherently has a vertically adjustable exposed jack height (as referenced at 76 in Figure No. 4) intermediate column-jack end 53 and structure-jack

interface 50. It will be further understood that the skirt height is preferably greater in magnitude than exposed jack height 76 as generally depicted in Figure Nos. 8 – 11. Further, the strap height is preferably greater than twice the magnitude of the clamp height as generally depicted in Figure No. 2.

It will be further understood from an inspection of the noted figures that inner strap surface 55 preferably engages outer columnar surface 52 adjacent column jack end 53 and thus strap member 18 conceals column-jack end 53. Strap-engaging edge 68 preferably engages outer strap surface 56 intermediate fold region 61 and stationary edge 60. Structure-engaging edge 69 preferably engages structure-jack interface 50 and thus skirt member 22 conceals columnar jack 12. Inner clamp surface 70 preferably engages outer skirt surface 65 adjacent strap-engaging edge 68 and thus columnar clamp 20 clamps skirt member 22 and strap member 18 to columnar support 14 adjacent column-jack end 53.

Strap member 18 is then preferably folded at fold region 61 and fold region 61 preferably engages strap-engaging edge 68. Outer strap surface 56 adjacent fold edge 59 preferably engages outer clamp surface 71. Inner strap surface 55 adjacent fold edge 59 thus conceals clamp member 20. It will recalled that the material used in the construction of strap member 18, in order to more properly blend into the structure, preferably be in aesthetic agreement with the columnar support or structure. Thus, outer columnar surface 52 is preferably visually similar to inner strap surface 55 and outer skirt surface 65 so that the structural column assembly provides an aesthetically adjustable columnar support to the building structure.

From a general inspection of Figure No. 2 as well as consideration of Figure Nos. 8 – 11, it will be understood that the strap length adjustment means, the skirt length adjustment means, and the clamp length adjustment means are operable to adjust the strap length, the skirt length, and the clamp length (respectively) according to the column periphery magnitude. Further, it will be understood that the structure-jack interface may preferably be defined by the superior surface of a column support structure of the building structure (the floor surface of building structure 16 as depicted in Figure No. 1) and the structure-column interface may preferably be defined by the inferior surface of a ceiling support structure of building structure 16 (the underside of the log supporting the overhand as generally depicted in Figure No. 1).

Finally, in usage the present invention provides a method of installing a columnar jack concealing kit 10 for a columnar support 14, as shown in FIGS. 8-11. The method comprises the acts of first, providing a columnar jack 12 and then attaching the columnar”

On Page No. 18, please amend Line Nos. 16 – 21, to read, as follows:

“material waste, accommodates immediate access for jack and material adjustments, due to such causes as shrinkage and swelling, and is easy to use and manufacture.

Thus, while the above description contains much specificity, this specificity should not be construed as limitations on the scope of the invention, but rather as an exemplification of the invention. For example, it is believed that the spirit of the present invention discloses a structural column assembly and kit wherein strap-engaging edge 68

alternatively engages columnar support 14 (instead of inner strap surface 55 adjacent stationary edge 60) adjacent column-jack end 53 and that structure-engaging edge 69, as before, preferably engages structure-jack interface 50. Skirt member 22 thus may alternatively conceal columnar jack 12 and column-jack end 53 from view. Inner strap surface 55 may alternatively engage outer skirt surface 65 adjacent strap-engaging end 68 and inner clamp surface 70 may then alternatively engage outer strap surface 56 adjacent stationary edge 60. Thus, columnar clamp 20 preferably attaches strap member 18 and skirt member 22 to columnar support 14 adjacent column-jack end 53. Strap member 18 may then be alternatively folded at fold region 61. Outer strap surface 56 adjacent fold edge 59 thus may alternatively engage outer clamp surface 71 and fold region 61 may alternatively engage fold-side edge 74. Inner strap surface 55 adjacent fold edge 59 thus conceals clamp member 20. Notably, in either the preferred or alternative scenario, outer columnar surface 52 is preferably visually similar to inner strap surface 55 as well as outer skirt surface 65 and thus, the structural column assembly provides an aesthetically adjustable columnar support to building structure 16.

As various possible embodiments may be made in the above invention for use for different purposes and as various changes might be made in the embodiments and methods above set forth, it is understood that all of the above matters here set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings are to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.”